



Building an Efficient and Effective Government

"It's not the time to point fingers or play politics. It's time to roll up our sleeves and make this government work for Missouri families."

Governor Jay Nixon

The national and international economic collapse has had a devastating impact on Missouri's economy. Together, we must take bold action to make government smaller, more efficient, and more responsive. By making tough decisions and instilling the right priorities, the state will free up additional resources to create new jobs, educate our children, make health care more accessible, and help middle-class families through these tough economic times. Bringing state government expenditures in line with expected revenues will require tough decisions. Governor Nixon is committed to ensuring the state lives within its means and the state budget reflects the needs of Missouri families.

Governor Nixon will:

- Provide leadership and fiscal responsibility; and
- Make state government more transparent.



Leadership and Fiscal Responsibility

During the state's difficult financial times, a detailed analysis of the budget is critical. Governor Nixon took steps to begin his review and face the state's funding issues immediately. Within a week of his election, the Governor had a team in place to conduct a thorough analysis of the state's budgetary condition, advise him on fiscal and appropriations matters, and aid in preparation of his administration's first budget package.

During his first days in office, the Governor took action to address state government spending by:

- Requiring each department and agency to develop plans for an immediate reduction of expenditures in the current fiscal year.
- Initiating a review of all new, long-term state contracts for goods and services.

Governor Nixon will work to make government more efficient and effective in the coming weeks by:

- Directing a review of all capital projects that have not already broken ground.
- Ordering a top-to-bottom performance review of every state agency and major program.
- Instructing the Department of Economic Development to report on all tax credits to determine which are producing the intended benefit and which are not.

The Fiscal Year 2010 budget includes 1,329 fewer state positions. The Governor worked to make these reductions in areas that will have the least impact on vital services and preserve the priority areas of jobs, education, and health care.

Given the reduced size of state government, state employees will be asked to do more with less. Governor Nixon knows that as duties shift to remaining employees, state employees must remain adequately compensated and healthy. Public service is crucial to continue vital services provided to Missouri taxpayers. The Governor's Fiscal Year 2010 budget includes:

- \$95.9 million to maintain current health care plan benefit levels for state employees.
- \$79.3 million for a 3 percent pay raise for all state employees.



Transparent Government

An End to Political Patronage

Governor Nixon is committed to changing the way Missouri manages local motor vehicle license offices by ending the current system of political patronage. Before taking office, the Governor announced his plan to implement new, common-sense reforms to the process of awarding license office management. In one of the first actions of his administration, Governor Nixon ended the era of license office patronage, competitively bidding out the first 12 of Missouri's 183 license offices. All others will follow in the weeks and months to come. The Governor's initiative will streamline the license system and save money for Missourians. Governor Nixon's administration will take two steps to reform the license office system.

1. The Missouri Department of Revenue will request competitive bids on every contracted license office in Missouri.

The goal will be to obtain the best bid to ensure maximum efficiency, qualified personnel, convenient service for customers, secure and accessible office space, and financial stability of the contractor. The evaluation process includes a straightforward point scale that also considers whether a civic or not-for-profit group is bidding. The Request for Proposals (RFP) also includes consideration of whether a bidder is a minority, a woman, or a minority/woman-run organization. Once a bid is awarded, the Department of Revenue has the option of renewing the contracts for up to three years after the first year is completed. All license offices will undergo a transition process. New contracts will be awarded on a timeline to ensure continuity of service for Missourians.

2. The Missouri Department of Revenue will increase efficiency by moving more of the license-renewal process on-line.

Other states are effectively using the Internet to process license plates and renewals. The state of Arizona completes 45 percent of eligible transactions online and Virginia completes 28.8 percent of eligible transactions online. However, the State of Missouri currently only completes less than one percent of transactions through the Internet. Bringing the license-renewal process online will save money and time for Missourians and reduce overhead expenses for the state.

Responsible Contribution Limits

Campaign limits preserve the power of regular Missourians in the political process and limit the influence of wealthy special interests. In 2008, the General Assembly eliminated contribution limits, clearing the way for special interests to give candidates millions of dollars. Governor Nixon believes that elections should be competitions of ideas, not competitions for rich donors. The Governor will advocate for a new campaign finance system that not only reinstates contribution limits, but also allows for full transparency.